

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Transmitted via email

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-5-15

SUBJECT: LTP - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

Purpose. To distribute information relative to initial FY 2005 WHIP allocations and policy for accepting applications.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

Minnesota's initial FY05 financial assistance allocation is \$317,821 for producer contracts. Additional funds may become available when the FY05 USDA budgets are complete. These funds will be distributed as necessary at a later date. I am recommending that each Area receive a 2005 WHIP allocation based on their historic use of WHIP funds. The break down of these funds, as a percentage of our state allocation, is as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>2005 WHIP Allocation</u>	<u>Base Funding Level</u>
1	10%	\$31,783
2	20%	\$63,564
3	20%	\$63,564
4	10%	\$31,782
5	10%	\$31,782
6	10%	\$31,782
7	20%	\$63,564

Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis. Those applications meeting a minimum ranking score of **120** points will be forwarded to the Area Office for review and final approval. The appropriate Assistant State Conservationist (FO) will determine how their Area applications will be approved and at their discretion, make county allocations in Protracts. All Area allocations must be obligated by August 1, 2005. Funds unobligated thereafter will be returned to the State Office and re-allocated statewide.

The 2004 unfunded backlog applications have been carried over to 2005 in Protracts. Field Offices are to review the backlog applications for their county and cancel those that are no longer valid. Valid 2005 applications will need to be updated using the 2005 WHIP cost list and the plans uploaded into Protracts.

A revised Toolkit cost list has been developed and an amended WHIP Docket, Ranking Worksheet and "WHIP Application Checklist" (CPM, Part 517, Subpart MN517) has been distributed.

Direct questions you may have regarding the 2005 WHIP program guidance to Mark Oja, State Biologist.

Ann English, Acting for

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: AC
ARC
FO